

PUBLIC NOTICE

PERMIT APPLICATION: NRS07.304

APPLICANT: National Park Service
Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park
P.O. Box 2128
Ft. Oglethorpe, GA 30742
ATTN: Mr. Shawn Bengé, Superintendent
Phone: 423-752-5213

LOCATION: The proposed project is on the right descending bank between Tennessee River Miles (TRM) 457.2 (35°, 03', 37"N; 85°, 20', 23"W) and 463.1 (35°, 03', 15"N; 85°, 19', 35"W) in Hamilton County, Tennessee (USGS Chattanooga, Tennessee 7.5 Minute Series Quadrangle).

WATERSHED DESCRIPTION: The proposed project is in the Lower Tennessee River Watershed (Nickajack Lake), Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) 06020001. Tennessee River's designated uses between TRM 460.6 to 499.4 (upstream of Chattanooga Creek) are domestic water supply, industrial water supply, fish and aquatic life, recreation, livestock watering and wildlife, irrigation, and navigation. Designated uses from TRM 448.0 to 460.6 are the same except for domestic water supply. There is a precautionary advisory on eating catfish from Nickajack Lake due to levels of PCBs in fish tissue. Nickajack Lake is partially supporting due to PCBs and dioxins. The surrounding land use is primarily industrial, urban, and residential.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Proposed Bank Stabilization Project Between Tennessee River Miles (TRM) 457.2 -463.1 (right descending bank) (Nickajack Lake). The purpose of this bank stabilization project is to address bank erosion which is impacting cultural resource sites both in the bank face and adjacent terrace. The project owner is the National Park Service (NPS) Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park. The Moccasin Bend National Archeological District was designated a national historic landmark in 1986 because it possesses exceptional value in illustrating or interpreting the history of the United States. Nickajack Lake has a normal pool of 634 feet mean sea level; however, due to hydropower generation at the upstream Chickamauga Dam the bank below 637 feet is frequently inundated making vegetation establishment problematic in this zone. Estimated bank losses around Moccasin Bend, based on a comparison of mapping from 1964/1968 to 1980 and 2000 mapping, are 30-120 feet.

Due to the prevalence of cultural resources along the bank, bank stabilization efforts were designed with the limitation that no sloping or excavating of the existing bank would be allowed. The only exception is use of an excavated toe trench at or just below waterline in limited areas where it facilitates a reduced fill placement. Cultural resource surveys were recently performed for the Corps of Engineers to help prioritize bank reaches based on the significance of the cultural resources. Based on this survey, the bend was divided into six reaches. The attached maps show a copy of the USGS Chattanooga quadrangle with the project area identified and reach segments with proposed bank stabilization methods (Figures 1-2).

The proposed project is a combination (Alternative D) of three alternatives depending on whether full or partial bank stabilization is needed. In addition, portions of the bend have some level of existing bank protection and only maintenance placement of supplemental stone is proposed in these areas with stone placed above the normal pool level. The three alternatives to be used include: Alternative A (Partial Bank Protection) - Stone Placed to elevation 638 feet; Alternative B (Full Bank Protection) - Stone Placed to Top of Bank; and Alternative C (Full Bank Protection) - Stone Placed to elevation 638 feet and Soil/Bioengineering to Top of Bank. .

Availability of NPS funds will limit how much work can be performed in a given year, so the construction is to be sequenced to maximize stabilization with the funds available. It is hoped that Reaches 2A and 2B would be completed with current funding since this section has the greatest significance from a cultural resource standpoint. This is the only reach where protection to the top of the bank face is proposed. For other reaches, either maintenance of existing bank stabilization (Reach 3) or placement of a stone to elevation 638 feet (Reaches 1, 4-6) is proposed.

An Environmental Assessment (EA) is being prepared for the NPS by the Corps of Engineers. This EA will provide a detailed discussion of existing resources, alternatives considered, and environmental consequences of the proposed project and will be made available for a 30 day public review in the near future. The Corps and NPS plan to host a public meeting on the proposed project sometime during the public review period. The NPS will also apply for Department of Army and Tennessee Valley Authority (Joint 404/26A) permits for this work.

In accordance with the Tennessee Antidegradation Statement (Rule 1200-4-3-.06), the division has determined that the proposed activity will not result in degradation to water quality. This notice may be viewed on the internet at <http://www.state.tn.us/environment/wpc/ppo/arap>.

PERMIT COORDINATOR: Robert Baker

No decision has been made whether to issue or deny this permit. The purpose of this notice is to inform interested parties of this permit application and to ask for comments and information necessary to determine possible impacts to water quality. Persons wishing to comment on the proposal are invited to submit written comments to the department. Written comments must be received within **thirty days of the date that this notice is posted**. Comments will become part of the record and will be considered in the final decision. The applicant's name and permit number should be referenced.

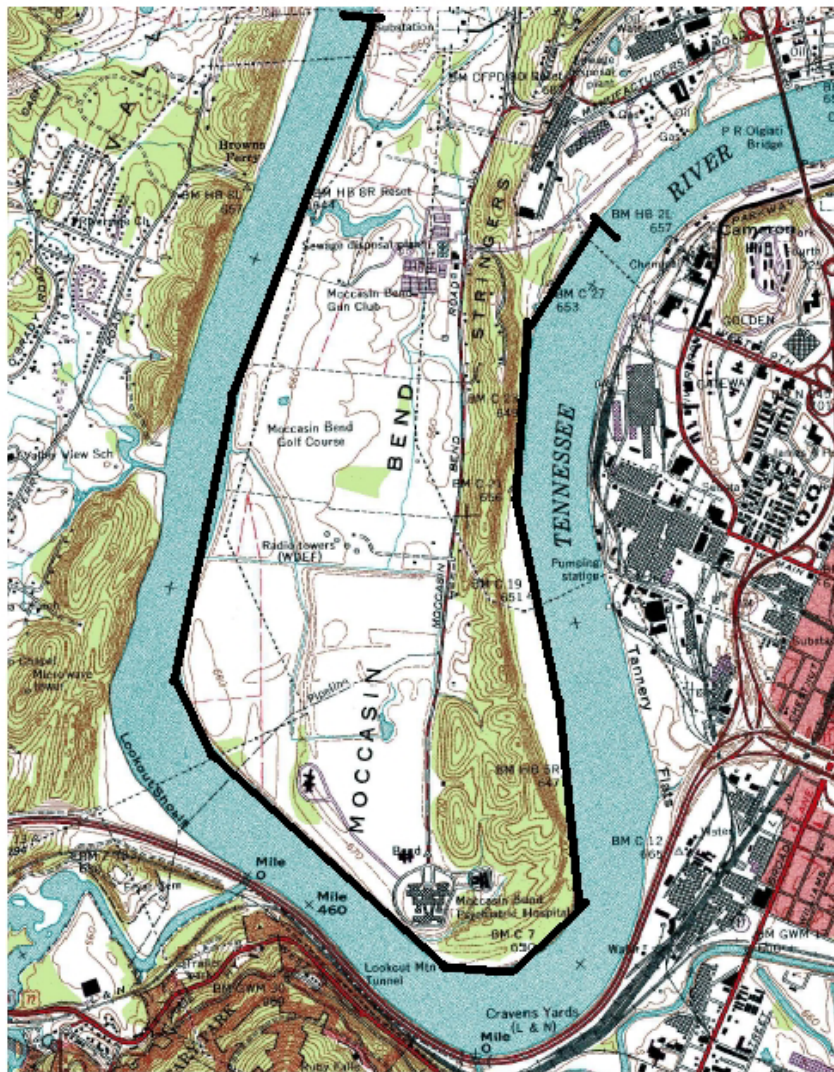
Interested persons may also request in writing that the department hold a public hearing on this application. The request must be filed within the comment period, indicate the interest of the person requesting it, the reasons that the hearing is warranted, and the water quality issues being raised. When there is sufficient public interest in water quality issues, the department will hold a public hearing.

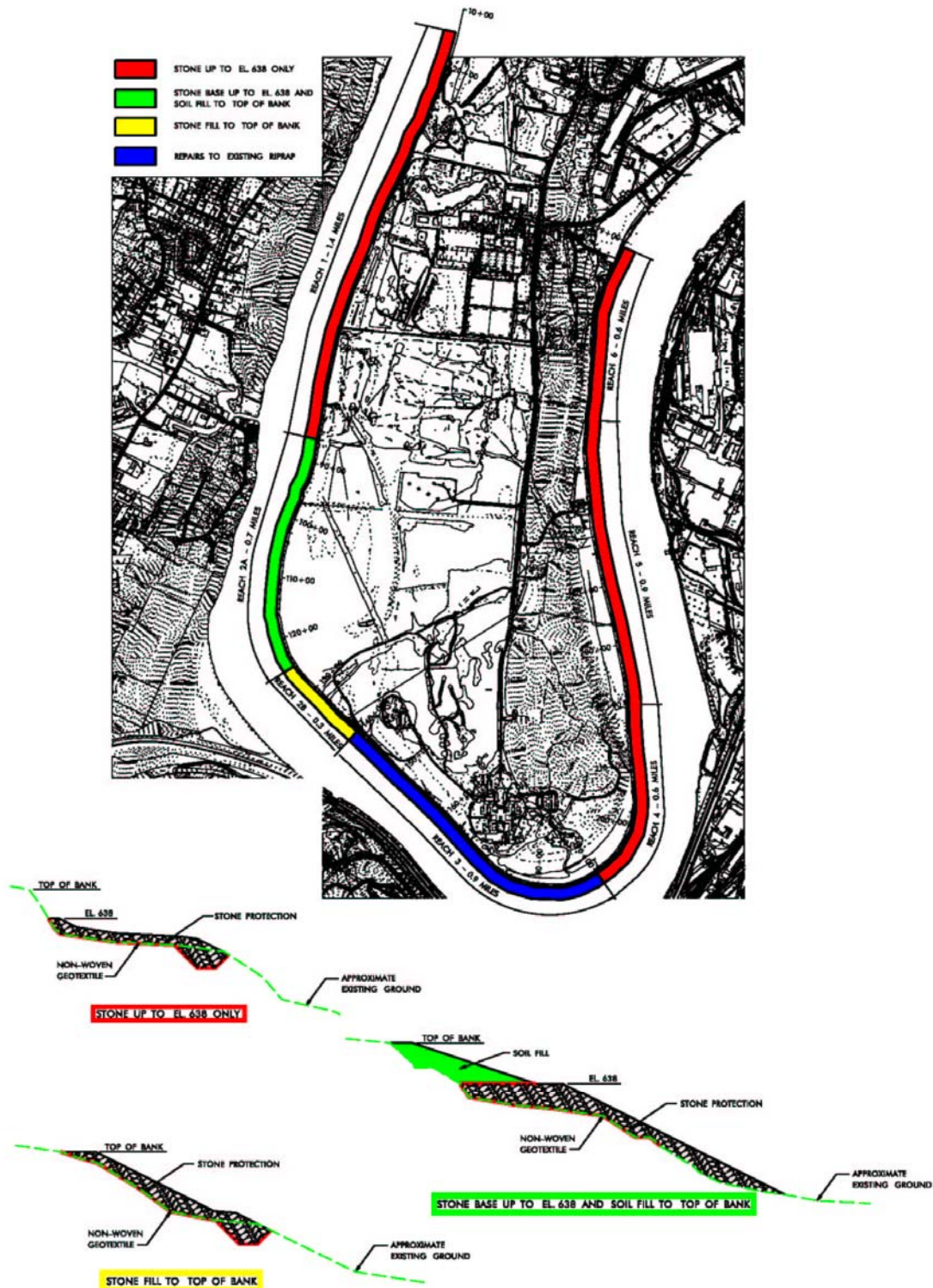
The permit application, supporting documentation including detailed plans and maps, and related comments are available at the department's address for review and/or copying. The department's address is:

Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation
Division of Water Pollution Control, Natural Resources Section
7th Floor L & C Annex
401 Church Street
Nashville, TN 37243

In deciding whether to issue or deny a permit, the department will consider all comments of record and the requirements of applicable federal and state laws. In making this decision, a determination will be made regarding the lost value of the resource compared to the value of any proposed mitigation. The department shall consider practicable alternatives to the alteration. The department shall also consider loss of waters or habitat, diminishment in biological diversity, cumulative or secondary impacts to the water resource, and adverse impact to unique, high quality, or impaired waters.

Figure 1 - Chattanooga, Tennessee Quadrangle
Moccasin Bend Bank Stabilization Project
Tennessee River Mile 457.2 to 463.1, Right Bank





MOCCASIN BEND RIVERBANK STABILIZATION

**Photographs of Moccasin Bend Bank Stabilization Project
Downstream to Upstream Direction (Date Taken - 05-01-2007)**

Reach 1 (Station 7000, TRM 458)



Reach 2 (Station 11000, TRM 458.8)



**Reach 3 (Existing Riprap, Station 18500, TRM 460.7)
State Hospital Area**



Reach 4 (Station 19200, TRM 461.1)



Reach 5 (Station 22500, TRM 461.6)
Police Firing Range Area



Reach 6 (Station 27000, TRM 462.4)

